

Federal Communication Commission

December 12, 2018

Re: Proposed Rule Making Docket No. 16-239

Please allow me to respectfully express my support for the Proposed Rule Making Docket No. 16-239 to eliminate the current 300 baud limit in the US on HF digital transmissions, replacing it with a 2.8 kHz bandwidth limitation instead. I strongly endorse the position paper of the Amateur Radio Safety Foundation, Inc. on this matter.

This change will greatly enhance the ability of US Amateurs to advance the "Art" of radio communications, and most importantly improve emergency communications capacity. It will also align US rules more closely with other countries, thus enhancing operations. Radio Amateurs in the US have a proud, world leading, tradition of volunteering their expertise in support of their communities. The current rule is outdated and impeding the hobby and emergency communications in the US.

As a Canadian Amateur in British Columbia who is involved in volunteer emergency communications and administers a Winlink system HF email gateway station, I routinely interact with my US colleagues along the west coast and Alaska in particular. We share the safety risks of earthquakes, tsunamis, and fires and support each other. Our station, by way of being in a strategic location for HF propagation and inland, is regularly used by station from California to Alaska, and even Hawaii. In turn, gateway stations on the US west cost are available to us. Unfortunately, the current data rate rule prevents US stations from making optimal use of our station. The new rule would aproximately double the data transfer capacity for US users, which could be critical in emergency situations

where traffic demand would be high.

Respectfully,

J. Douglas Steventon, ve7ept
Smithers, BC
Canada